

1. How many steps are necessary before work can begin on the landfill's construction?

Several steps will be required, including issuing the final Record of Decision (ROD), completing a groundwater position study across a portion of the proposed Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) site, completing the landfill design, and completing the work plan for construction of the landfill. These processes include documents prepared by the Department of Energy (DOE) that are subject to approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

2. Will there be any more public comment periods? If so, when?

The DOE is planning to host a public meeting to share new information with the public and to request public input on these topics. New information has been developed since the DOE's 2019 Proposed Plan regarding 1) landfill location selection, 2) waste type disposal limits, and 3) discharge of radionuclides to surface water from landfill wastewater. The DOE will announce the dates of the meeting and public comment period soon.

3. How have the previous public comment periods gone? Are those comments available anywhere?

A Proposed Plan public comment period was held from September 10, 2018 to January 9, 2019, in which numerous comments were submitted to the DOE. The draft responses can be found in the June 22, 2021, Draft ROD which is available at <https://doeic.science.energy.gov/uploads/F.0615.031.0206.pdf>. The EPA and the TDEC submitted comments on the draft ROD, including the draft responses to public comments. A final version of the responses to public comments will be in final ROD.

4. What is your current feeling with regard to concerns about pollution of waterways, which has been brought up by several environmental groups? Do you believe given the information you currently have that such concerns might be warranted? What measures might be taken to address these issues?

A remedy must 1) protect human health and the environment, and 2) comply with applicable, or relevant and appropriate, regulations to be selected by the EPA. The EMDF remedy must protect impacted water bodies.

5. One specific concern that has been cited is radionuclide pollution limits. Will there be any such specific limits and if so what will they be?

The Waste Acceptance Criteria, which will be shared with the public for comment, limits the amount of radionuclides that can be disposed in the EMDF. In addition, there will be limits on the allowable levels of radionuclides in surface water (Bear Creek).

6. Environmental groups have brought up the Radionuclide Pollution Decision under Executive Order 13990. One letter from such groups which The Oak Ridge has recieved, "EPA repeatedly references the Radionuclide Pollution Decision as the framework that applies to the establishment of radionuclide wastewater limits at the EMDF and does not expressly address whether DOE will be required to comply with technology-based effluent limits (TBELs) or the State of Tennessee's antidegradation policy. Because EPA directs DOE to provide a revised focused feasibility study and record of decision that address EPA's comments, it is difficult for Community Groups not to infer that EPA has adopted the Radionuclide Pollution Decision as it stands. This inference is further supported by recent correspondence from DOE which indicates, without reference to any ongoing review by EPA of the Radionuclide Pollution Decision, that DOE will address comments on the wastewater focused feasibility study "30 calendar days following the date the radiological discharge limits are agreed upon by the three parties." How would you respond to these concerns? How would you explain this executive order in laypeople's terms?

Per Executive Order 13990, the EPA continues to evaluate Administrator Wheeler's December 31, 2020 decision on the formal dispute with the DOE regarding the discharge to surface water of radionuclides in wastewaters generated by the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) and the EMDF.

The EPA is working with the DOE and the TDEC to ensure that the selected remedy for the EMDF will be protective of human health and the environment; meet applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) unless a waiver is justified; and that the public has an opportunity to engage in and provide input on the cleanup decisions at the site, consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).

Are there any other concerns you would like to address that you've heard from citizens?

Are there any other issues you'd like to address?

Anything else you'd like to say at this point?